

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A method for transferring tree trunks (9) or other loose material by means of a trough-shaped transfer apparatus by exerting abrasive forces and friction forces to the material to be transferred on partial surfaces of the transfer through, the abrasive forces acting sequentially in the transfer direction and in the return direction, and the friction forces acting as braking forces, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein the braking friction forces are exerted on at least three in respect to the transfer direction of the through transversally separate areas, and that the abrasive forces in the transfer direction are exerted to the material to be transferred simultaneously on each areas (13) between the braking friction force areas (3, 3'; 21, 25), and that the abrasive forces acting in the return direction are exerted non-simultaneously as well with respect to each other as to the abrasive forces in the transfer direction.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in, that~~ wherein the abrasive force in return direction is exerted non-simultaneously on each of said areas sequentially per area.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transferring tree trunks (9) or other loose material, comprising a troughed transfer apparatus, ~~characterized in,~~ ~~that~~ wherein the centre portion of the bottom of the apparatus comprises a stationary balk (21) parallel with the trough, forming a part of the trough, and between the same and the stationary sides 3 and 3' both sided, a part of the trough is formed by balks (13, 13') movable back and forth in the transfer direction and in the return direction.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for transferring tree trunks (9) or other loose material, comprising a troughed transfer apparatus, ~~characterized in,~~ ~~that~~ wherein the centre portion of the bottom of the apparatus comprises a stationary balk (25) parallel with the trough, forming a part of the trough, and between the same and the ~~stationary~~ stationary sides (3 and 3') both sided there are two transfer balks (23, 24 and 23', 24') forming a part of the trough, movable back and forth in the transfer direction and in the return direction.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus in accordance with ~~claims 3 and 4,~~ ~~characterized in,~~ ~~that~~ claim 3, wherein the width of the friction surface (25K) of the centre, ~~stationary~~ stationary balk (25) is less than a half of the respective friction surface (24K) of the balk (24, 24') adjacent thereto.

Claim 6. (New) An apparatus in accordance with claim 4, wherein the width of the friction surface (25K) of the centre, stationary balk (25) is less than a half of the respective friction surface (24K) of the balk (24, 24') adjacent thereto.